UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.5/1996/L.5
29 May 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
Special session of 1996
21-31 May 1996
Item 3 of the agenda

REVIEW OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE COMMISSION

Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the future role of the Commission for Social Development

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman of the Working Group Mrs. Ruth S. Limjuco (Philippines)

DRAFT RESOLUTION

The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolutions 10 (II) of 21 June 1946 and 830J (XXXII) of 2 August 1961, by which the Council established the Commission for Social Development and defined its terms of reference, and resolution 1139 (XLI) of 29 July 1966, by which the Council renamed the Commission in order to clarify its role as a preparatory and advisory body of the Council in the whole range of social development policy,

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 50/161 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/60 on the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, agreed conclusions 1995/1 approved by the Council on 28 July 1995, and Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

I

Framework for the functioning of the Commission

Recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 50/161, decided that the Assembly, through its role in policy formulation, and the Economic and Social Council, through its role in overall guidance and coordination, in accordance with their respective roles under the Charter of the United Nations and Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993, and a revitalized Commission for Social Development shall constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental process in the follow-up to the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action,

Convinced that the follow-up to the Summit will be undertaken on the basis of an integrated approach to social development and within the framework of a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of the major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the functioning of the Commission for Social Development, including its future role in the follow-up of the Summit; 1/

2. Decides that the Commission for Social Development, as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, shall have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Summit;

3. Calls upon all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to be involved in the follow-up to the Summit, and invites specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen and adjust their activities, programmes and medium-term strategies, as appropriate, to take into account the follow-up to the Summit;

4. Invites the United Nations Development Programme, the International Labour Organization and the Bretton Woods institutions to be actively involved in the follow-up to the Summit, in accordance with relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/161, and invites the World Trade Organization to consider how it might contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action;

5. Decides that the task forces established by the Administrative Committee on Coordination for the follow-up to the Summit and other related United Nations conferences should inform the Commission and the Economic and Social Council of the progress of their work for the purpose of system-wide coordination;

1/ E/CN.5/1996/2.

6. Reiterates the invitation to the Secretary-General, including within the framework of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to make appropriate arrangements, which may include joint meetings, for consultations with the heads of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations funds and programmes, and other relevant agencies for the purpose of enhancing the cooperation of their respective organizations in the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action;

7. Reaffirms the need for ensuring an effective partnership and cooperation between Governments and the relevant actors of civil society, the social partners, and major groups as defined in Agenda 21, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of and follow-up to the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, and for ensuring their involvement in the planning, elaboration, implementation and evaluation of social policies at the national level;

8. Decides, in view of the traditional importance of non-governmental organizations in the promotion of social development, that such organizations should be encouraged to participate in the work of the Commission and in the monitoring and implementation process related to the Summit to the maximum extent possible, and requests the Secretary-General to make appropriate arrangements to ensure the full utilization of existing channels of communication with non-governmental organizations in order to facilitate broad-based participation and dissemination of information;

9. Also decides, in recognition of the valuable contribution of non-governmental organizations to the World Summit for Social Development, the Council and its Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, to review the application of such non-governmental organizations under Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) as expeditiously as possible, and further decides that prior to the thirty-fifth session of the Commission for Social Development, the Council will decide on the participation of those non-governmental organizations accredited to the Summit that have applied for consultative status in Summit follow-up and in the work of the Commission for Social Development, without prejudice to the work of the Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultation with Non-Governmental Organizations;

10. Requests the Secretary-General urgently to draw the attention of non-governmental organizations accredited to the Summit to the provisions of the present resolution and to the process established under Council resolution 1296 (XLIV);

II

Terms of reference

11. [Reaffirms]/[Takes note of] the existing mandate of the Commission for Social Development as set out in its resolutions 10 (II) of 1946, 830J (XXXII) of 1961 and 1136 (XLI) of 1966;

12. Decides that the Commission, in fulfilling its mandate, shall assist the Economic and Social Council in monitoring, reviewing and appraising progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and shall advise the Council thereon, and decides that to that end, the Commission should:

(a) Improve international understanding on social development, including through the exchange of information and experience;

(b) Integrate, within the framework of the follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development, consideration of issues relating to the situation of social groups, including review of relevant United Nations programmes of action related to such groups, and consideration of other sectoral issues;

(c) Identify emerging issues affecting social development that require urgent consideration, and make substantive recommendations thereon;

(d) Make recommendations regarding social development to the Economic and Social Council;

(e) Elaborate practical measures aimed at furthering Summit recommendations;

(f) Identify issues where United Nations system-wide coordination needs to be improved, taking into account substantive inputs from different organs of the United Nations system, as well as the contributions of other concerned functional commissions, in order to assist the Council in its coordination functions;

(g) Maintain and enhance public awareness and support for the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action;

III

Structure of the agenda and work programme of the Commission

13. Decides that the substantive items of the agenda of the Commission for Social Development for its future sessions will consist of the following:

Substantive item: Follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development

[(a) Enabling environment for social development]. The situation of social groups would be considered under this sub-item in relation to the topics chosen;

(b) Consideration of priority subjects [plus reference to social groups];

(c) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups, as necessary;

(d) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting social development, as necessary;

14. Decides [in the light of the need for a focused and thematic multi-year work programme on the specific themes, bearing in mind the importance of the enabling environment for social development and that the specific themes are interrelated and interdependent,] on the following multi-year programme of work for the Commission for Social Development:

[1997: Follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development

(a) Theme: "Productive employment and sustainable livelihoods". Under this theme, the following specific topics will be considered:

(i) Centrality of employment in policy formulation, including a broader recognition of work and employment (chapter 3A and 3E, and relevant parts of Commitment 3);

(ii) Improving access to productive resources and infrastructure (chapter 2B and relevant parts of Commitment 2);

(iii) Enhanced quality of work and employment (chapter 3C and relevant parts of Commitment 3);

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting social development, including the situation of specific groups:

(i) Disability: report of the Special Rapporteur to the Commission on progress achieved in implementing the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities;

(ii) Ageing: fourth quadrennial review of the International Plan of Action on Ageing and preparations for the International Year of Older Persons (1999)];

[1998: Follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development

(a) Theme: "Promoting social integration and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons". Under this theme, the following specific topics will be considered:

(i) Promoting social integration through responsive government, full participation in society, non-discrimination, tolerance, equality and social justice (chapter 4A, 4B, 4C, and relevant parts of Commitments 4 and 5);

(ii) Enhancing social protection, reduced vulnerability and employment opportunities for groups with specific needs (chapters 2D, 3D and 4D, and relevant parts of Commitments 2, 3 and 4);

(iii) Violence, crime and the problem of illicit drugs and substance abuse as factors of social disintegration;

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting social development, including the situation of specific groups];

[1999: Follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development

(a) Theme 1: "Social services for all, including a specific focus on education" [particularly health and education] (relevant parts of chapter 2C, 3B and 4C, Commitment 6 and relevant parts of Commitment 2, 3 and 4);

(b) Theme 2: "Enhancement of social development goals in structural adjustment programmes" (Commitment 8);

(c) Theme 3: "Initiation of the overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit";

(d) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting social development, including the situation of specific groups];

[2000: Follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development

(a) Theme: "Contribution of the Commission to the overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit";

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting social development, including the situation of specific groups];

Alternative themes

(a) [1997: "Promoting social integration and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons";

(b) 1999: "Social services for all, including a specific focus on education";

2000: "Special session of the General Assembly to review and appraise the implementation of the outcome of the Summit" (Assembly resolution 50/161)];

[15. Also decides that the Commission should apply a gender perspective when discussing the different topics under the multi-year work programme, and that issues on the enabling environment for social development (Commitment 1 and chapter 1), the special situation of Africa and the least developed countries (Commitment 7), and the mobilization of domestic and international resources for social development (Commitment 9 and chapter 5), which are cross-sectoral in nature and relate to all the areas for action identified in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, should be treated on an annual basis and in an integrated manner];

IV

Membership, frequency and duration of sessions of the Commission

16. Decides that the Commission for Social Development shall be composed of [53] [32] members elected from among the members of the United Nations and of its specialized agencies [according to the following pattern ...] [taking into consideration an equitable geographic representation];

17. Also decides that the Commission shall meet [annually, beginning in 1997,] [biennially] for a period of [five] [eight] [at least 10] working days in New York;

V

Documentation

18. Requests that all United Nations documentation be kept concise, clear, analytical and timely with a focus on relevant issues, in accordance with Council resolution 1987/24 of 26 May 1987 and agreed conclusions 1995/1 of 28 July 1995, and that to the greatest extent possible use be made of integrated reporting; that reports contain recommendations for action and indicate the actors; that reports be available in all official languages, in accordance with the rules of the United Nations; and that the use of other methods of reporting, such as oral reports, also be explored;

19. Also requests that the relevant reports of the meetings of inter-agency mechanisms established by the Secretary-General be transmitted for information to the Commission to ensure coordination, collaboration and coherence in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

20. Decides that requests for reports of the Secretary-General should be limited to the minimum strictly necessary, and that the Secretariat should use information and data already provided by Governments to the maximum extent possible, avoiding duplication of requests to Governments for such information;

21. Also decides that voluntary submission of national information, for example national action plans or national reports by Governments, should be encouraged;

22. Requests that, in preparing reports, use should be made of the practice of assigning task managers, under which a United Nations entity is made responsible for coordinating the response of the entire United Nations system on a given subject, including the formulation of recommendations for future action;

23. Also requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations bodies to take appropriate measures, in a coordinated manner, to strengthen

[within existing resources] the United Nations capacity for gathering and analysing information and developing indicators of social development;

24. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit:

(a) An [annual] analytical report on the thematic issues before the Commission, in accordance with the multi-year work programme, including, as far as possible, progress made in national [and international] implementation, [including United Nations specialized agencies and other relevant entities and the Bretton Woods institutions,] based on available existing data and statistics;

(b) An [annual] report on emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting social development, including the situation of specific groups;

(c) An overall report, in the year 2000, on the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action;

25. Recommends to the General Assembly that The World Economic and Social Survey and the Report on the World Social Situation be consolidated into a single report, giving full consideration to social development issues annually;

VI

Methods of work of the Commission

26. Recognizes that the practice of inviting experts is expected to deal effectively with the priority subjects addressed in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and to contribute to the effective follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development, and to that end, decides that:

(a) Panels of experts shall be formed, including experts appointed by the Secretary-General, experts working within the United Nations system and experts from Governments and civil society;

(b) Experts shall be chosen from the fields of study addressed under the critical areas of concern, taking into account equitable geographical distribution and the involvement of non-governmental organizations;

(c) The selection of experts, the composition of the panels and the allocation of time to dialogues shall be decided inter-sessionally by the Bureau of the Commission, taking into consideration the proposals of the United Nations Secretariat; the Secretariat shall prepare a list of candidates for the panels based on suggestions from States and civil society; and the Bureau shall convene meetings open to the participation of all interested States to ensure a broad base of participation;

(d) Meetings shall be allotted to dialogue within the United Nations system and civil society and among governmental delegations, and sufficient time shall be devoted to intergovernmental dialogue;

[27. Decides that the Chairman shall submit to the Commission summaries of discussions, including the deliberations of representatives of States, and the Commission shall determine the format in which to transmit to the Council the results of the discussions, which format could include resolutions, decisions, summaries of the main points or action-oriented agreed conclusions;]

[28. Also decides that the Bureau of the Commission shall convene open-ended informal consultations of the Commission to improve organizational and procedural aspects of the Commission's sessions, and that the Bureau of the Commission shall meet on a regular basis from 1996, and may consider such issues as recommendations on agenda items and subjects to be discussed, the structure of meetings and lists of guest participants for panel discussions;]

29. Calls upon the Bureau to monitor the state of preparedness of documentation for the Commission and take necessary measures to facilitate its timely issuance in all official languages;

[30. Decides that to the extent practicable and at no cost to the Commission or to the United Nations, the Bureau of the Commission shall hold open meetings during the years that the formal session does not meet, and that, to further coordination of follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, the Bureau could, inter alia, review the work of the past year and prepare for the next year's formal session, hold meetings with the secretariats of relevant functional commissions and other relevant bodies to review the activities of those groups in regard to the Summit follow-up, develop a timetable for future meetings, and disseminate information regarding government-sponsored inter-sessional activity;]

VII

Secretariat

31. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure an effectively functioning Secretariat within which clear responsibility is assigned to assist in the implementation of the follow-up to the Summit and the servicing of the intergovernmental bodies involved, and to ensure close cooperation at the Secretariat level between all the United Nations entities involved in the Summit follow-up;

VIII

Regional dimension

[32. Invites the regional commissions, within their mandates and in cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, to consider convening, on a biennial basis, a meeting at a high political

level to review progress made towards implementing the outcome of the Summit, exchange views on the respective experiences of participating bodies and adopt appropriate measures;]